Paul Stombaugh 4H80-82+ WR 137

Reflections upon his testimony and its use by the WC.

D. Wrone. 4/10/77

I was essentially struck by a feeling of something basically wrong with this testimony. The entire hearing was somehow deceptive.

1. His expert credentials are established for the reader at least by a long and absolutely unneeded disquistion on public hairs, and the WR at 137 links Oswald through cotton and other fibers!

2. Is the wrong expert testifying here? Cotton and other fibers have distinctive characteristics, eg. Egyptian, etc. that are as distinctive as public hairs. Could the Cotton Council help?

3. From my work at U of Ill I know color is more distinctive in its characteristics than is made out here. Machines and tests aplenty exist that establish similarities perhaps within the pattern or range that is suggested by Stombaugh. He says he is a fiber man, is there a color man at the FBI? Why not his testimony?

4. Grease is mentioned caught or smeared or trapped on a part of the rifle. It is merely mentioned and cast aside. Why? Grease is extremely structured, eg. sulfur, etc. Also I know from cleaning my own rifles as a kid that oil for rifles (which is, is it not, different from the grease mentioned?) is different in smell and feel depending upon the manufacturer. Why did he not go into this? To my mind this is essential information that could not be handled by the <u>fiber</u> man and had to be handled by the other experts. He does not say specifically that he, to the exclusion of all others, scientifically examined the rifle; thus for oil, for this or that, other experts might have come in . . . ?

5. Dust is found only on the outside of the rifle. In the army I always was caught by the corporal and captain with dust <u>inside</u> the rifle, down in the springs and hideout crevices. This is insanity that the rifle had no dust inside it.

6. He measures the scope by his eye! with the blanket, thus suggesting that the "dent" or mark implanted upon the blanket by a hard object could roughly have fitted the rifle. He did not place the rifle on the blanket to avoid handling the rifle during a scientific testing of it for fibers etc. Nonsense. What about after the testing was done? What about placing the blanket up to the rifle? Were either of these things done? Why not?

7. What debris was in Oswald's shirt? This is tossed aside. Why?

8. Where did the several fibers from Oswald's shirt which were found on the rifle butt originate? It seems to me that this could be established on any shirt by a microscopic examination of every possible place on the shoulder, belly, etc. Further the fact the shirt was torn means that fibers could have been easily available to plant. (That is, the shirt was torn in the Texas movie house according to the suggestion by Stombaugh.)

9. ~~Why was it all~~ Did they prove that this shirt was actually worn by Oswald at the TSBD?

10. It seems to me that the whole episode focuses upon the packag-er of the rifle ~~to~~ who shipped it to FBI SOG. I think you told me it was not shipped by package, as Stombaugh says, but was courier delivered. Further, Howard in <u>Presumed Guilty</u> has the Dallas police photograph of the rifle resting on the blanket prior to being "shipped" to the lab. Thus I do not see how the rifle got from the Dallas police to the FBI to Stombaugh with any even reasonable degree of clear and distinct purity to make the scientific credentials of P.S. mean anything. The premise is false.